



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Melody A.
Currey***

***Transportation Committee Public Hearing
February 28, 2011***

**S.B. No. 705 (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING PROOF OF MOTOR VEHICLE
REGISTRATION TO BE EXHIBITED ON MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES.
(TRA)**

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) welcomes the opportunity to submit comments on S.B. 705. This bill would require the placement of a registration sticker or verification of registration on a license plate. The DMV opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- In 2010, the legislature passed a bill *eliminating* registration stickers, which were required to be placed in the interior lower left corner of a vehicle's windshield. This proposal was discussed at length at a public hearing on March 10, 2010. It was generally well received because of the anticipated savings that would result from its implementation.
- As a result of this legislation, the DMV made major changes to its registration renewal process and has realized significant savings in the form of production and mailing costs. The savings exceeded \$800,000.
- The legislature removed over \$800,000 from the DMV's budget based in part upon the elimination of the stickers. Reinstatement of this program would come at a significant cost to the state. Significant *additional* funding will be required to produce plate stickers. This will require the production and mailing of new stickers for each of the over three million vehicles registered in the state of Connecticut. In the first year, it is estimated that this will cost the state approximately \$1,850,000, and the cost for each year after the first year will be approximately \$950,000.
- On November 9, 2005 the Governor's office made the decision to accept a recommendation by a special task force comprised of representatives from local law enforcement agencies, the State Police, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. The recommendation was that registration stickers be moved from the license plate to the inside left hand corner of the front windshield to cut down on the theft of registration stickers, which occurred in epidemic proportions in some urban areas of the state.
- Many police departments use license plate readers through which they are able to determine whether a vehicle is properly registered. The technology in this area continues to evolve, lessening the need for stickers. Moreover, the DMV has a website through which anyone may determine whether a vehicle is registered by entering the plate number of that vehicle.